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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Van Der Valk et al  
Application No. 10/781,165  
Filed: February 18, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. 23466

: DECISION GRANTING PETITION  
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)

This is a decision on the petition, filed November 5, 2007, under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2) to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the issue fee.

The petition is **GRANTED**, *nunc pro tunc*.

It is noted that, although the petition to withdraw from issue had not been acted upon by the appropriate deciding official of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Technology Center processed the request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 and subsequently issued a new Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and Notice of Allowability on February 8, 2008. Where an issue fee has been paid and an RCE is subsequently filed, the RCE is not a proper filing unless a petition to withdraw from issue has been granted. Therefore, the examiner was without authority to act further in the case absent a grantable petition withdrawing the application from issue. Nevertheless, in view of this decision on petition, the RCE is now considered a proper filing and the actions of the examiner taken thereafter are hereby ratified.

The issue fee in reply to the second Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed February 8, 2008, was received on February 13, 2008. The application issued into Patent No. 7,356,036 on April 8, 2008.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

  
Karen Creasy  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions